has issued detailed guidelines to banks to detect sickness at an early stage and take remedial measures for rehabilitation of sick SSI units identified as potentially viable. The State Level Inter-Institutional Committee (SLIIC) has been set up in each State under the convenorship of RBI to deal with the problems of co-ordination for rehabilitation of sick SSI units. Banks have been advised to ensure-restructuring of debt of all eligible small and medium enterprises. Sick SSI units that cannot be rehabilitated are encouraged to have one time settlement of their dues with the banks.

Disinvestment of equity in Insurance companies

4345. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to allow disinvestment of Government equity in four Public Sector General Insurance companies *i.e.* The New India Assurance, National Insurance, United and Oriental Insurance Companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Strategic partners for BSE and NSE

4346. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared the proposals of Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and National Stock Exchange (NSE) to have strategic partners;

(b) whether member brokers will reduce their stake in these exchanges from 100 per cent to 49 per cent;

(c) if so, the details of the proposal of BSE and NSE;

(d) whether BSE and NSE are also considering an Initial Public Offer (IPO) during this financial year; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Government has given approval for induction of certain foreign investors as shareholders in the BSE and NSE, in accordance with its policy on foreign investment in stock exchanges.

(b) and (c) As required by the BSE (Corporatisation and Demutalisation) Scheme, 2005 and the Regulations framed by SEBI, BSE is required to reduce the equity shareholding by its trading members to 49%.

The member brokers to not have any stake in NSE.

(d) and (e) BSE has informed that depending upon the need and circumstances, it may consider IPO at an appropriate time.

NSE has informed that presently no plan for an IPO is under consideration.

Financial irregularities by Directors of CSB Kerala

4347. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any court cases are undergoing against any directors of Catholic Syrian Bank, Kerala for financial irregularities;

(b) if so, the steps initiated on the matter;

(c) whether RBI is enquiring the reasons for the resignation of the CSB's former Chairman;

(d) whether the complaints have been received by RBI about the functioning of the CSB; and

(e) if so, the details of the action taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) A criminal Miscellaneous Petition (CMP 3585/2006) has been filed by a shareholder of the Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd. before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Thrissur against the bank, its former Chairman and current Cairman (since resigned), its Directors and officials in connection with certain leasing transactions undertaken by the bank during the year 1994-95. The Court has *vide* order dated February 03, 2007, appointed an Assistant Audit Officer to conduct an enquiry into the allegations stated in the complaint. RBI has, however, advised the Bank to explore the option of requesting the Court to appoint statutory auditor of the Bank to conduct an investigation in the matter.